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CHAPTER  
NEWS

DECEMBER 1982

VOL. 7 NO. 6

NEW PARCELS  
ADD TO ISLAND PRESERVES

Bradbury Island, a large wooded island in East Penobscot Bay, is now almost entirely under TNC ownership, thanks to an additional gift from David P. Becker of Brunswick, Maine. This donation comprises approximately 39 acres. Less than one acre remains and it will ultimately come to TNC. Mr. Becker, a former Vice-chairman of the Chapter, acquired the Island in 1969 and has subsequently donated it to the Maine Chapter to ensure its long-term protection.

Most of the shoreline of the 180-acre Island is steep cliffs, which rise straight up from the Bay some 30-60 feet. Although the Island was, like so many, cut for pulp, a mixed growth of maple, beech, and birch now dominates most of the Island. Only on the steeper slopes will the more common red and white spruce be found.

The abundance of hardwoods and also fresh water account for a large deer population, unusual only in that they tend to stay on the Island. Several pairs of osprey nest in the tall spruce which rim the shore. The Island is fairly inaccessible; only two small cobble beaches make an approach to the Island possible. There is no really safe anchorage.

An additional gift on another island preserve also has come to the Chapter. Some 22 acres on Long Island in Lubec

SMALL GRANTS  
PROGRAM  
ANNOUNCED

Once again, the Maine Chapter will make available small grants to encourage research on its preserves. The Small Grants Program, initiated in 1982, was designed to augment prior research efforts and assist in making Chapter management decisions, by offering amounts from \$50 to \$2,500 to qualified individuals to conduct research on the preserves. This year's brochure includes a list of suggested research topics on various preserves, but applications need not be limited to these topics. A committee of independent scientists will judge the proposals.

The deadline for applications is February 11, 1983.

(continued on p. 4)



R. Highlander photo

Long Island, Lubec

bring TNC's ownership there to just under 50 acres. This gift came from Mr. Robert Rimoldi, of Miami, Florida, and Franklin, Maine, who donated portions of the 175-acre Island in 1980 and 1981.

Long Island lies in South Bay, part of greater Cobscook Bay which is a major bald eagle wintering area. Although there are no eagle nests on the Island at present, its protection helps to ensure undeveloped and undisturbed qualities of the region so necessary for the survival of the eagle. The Island has rugged topography; steep cliffs rise sharply out of the Bay, some 112 feet. Moreover, 25 foot tides in the area make access more than difficult.

Today the Island is thickly vegetated, although it also was lumbered. Its hardwoods were removed during World War II and later in 1958, and more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the Island fell victim to the Trescott fire which leapt across the narrow channel from the mainland. Paper birch dominates the unburned section, with white spruce, balsam fir, and red cedar interspersed. Large pines are found on the northern end. Early successional deciduous species have grown up densely in the burned area. In the few open meadows, grasses and wildflowers proliferate.

The north end of the Island is a haul-out area for harbor seals, the only one in that part of South Bay.

Natural resource inventories have been completed for both of these preserves as well as management plans. More information about either can be obtained from the Chapter office.

DEC 21 1982



## MAINE CHAPTER NEWS

Published six times a year by the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Comments and contributions of articles are welcome.

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Gifts in the memory of the  
following have been received  
by the Maine Chapter

**Genevieve M. Elwell**  
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## Flint Is. Marina?

In 1968, the 170-acre Flint Island in Harrington became one of the early preserves of the Maine Chapter, when it was sold to the Chapter at a bargain price. Later, conservation easements were donated to the Chapter on the nearby islands of Hog, Narrows, and Raspberry. Most recently, came two easements on Willard Point, also in Harrington; in all, some 185 acres under forever wild restrictions. The major force behind these protection efforts was George Parsons Milmine, who, with his wife, sought to see these areas preserved.

Flint Island particularly is an outstanding area, with a number of significant natural features. It lies at the southern end of the range of a number of arctic species of plants, is a possible nesting site for Leach's storm petrels, and is prime habitat for the bald eagle, as well as having several unusual geologic features.

In the course of negotiations over Flint, Mr. Milmine wrote:

While we were in Maine ... we visited Flint, and I was so impressed with its beauty and its interest that I almost wrote to you to cancel the whole deal. But when I got back home I conjured up the unpleasant picture of a small marina, a small golf course carved out of the forest in the middle of the island, and a giant, multi-storied building rising on the high point, which glittered with lights of an evening — and destroyed the whole atmosphere of the Pleasant Bay area.

Mr. Milmine died earlier this fall, but the Maine Chapter will continue to be grateful for his efforts to preserve a small portion of Maine's natural heritage.

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



John W. Jensen  
Executive Director

This is a time of great promise and potential for the Maine Chapter. Like the rest of the country, the economy of Maine is stagnant. Many tracts of land are slow to move. This keeps prices stable and even drops them in some areas. Yet at the same time, the ecological value of land does, of course, not depend on market conditions.

Conservancy is working to stretch its resource dollar to acquire areas which once might have been beyond reach, but at the same time, conditions dictate that there are even more of these areas available.

Buying property, even at a low rate, still takes a great deal of money; even accepting a gift of a key eagle-nesting island, an untouched bog, or a hidden rare plant site is time consuming and expensive. Title work, marking or surveying boundaries, taxes, field checks, lengthy and complicated negotiations — all these things take many hours and cost money.

Human beings go through periods ranging from infancy

to full adulthood and maturity. Organizations go through much the same maturing and growing process. The Maine Chapter, since 1956, has gone through its period of infancy and childhood. We are now in a period, organizationally, of becoming a young adult.

We have been able to accomplish a great deal in recent years. You and the 5,000 or so other Maine Chapter members and supporters have provided the means to allow us to increase both the pace and the quality of land protection here in Maine.

We have developed the ability to go after the land and negotiate more complex deals that we simply would have walked away from in past years. This direction must and will continue if we are to meet Conservancy's goals of protecting significant natural lands.

But these goals will only be realized if we continue to have the support necessary to carry out our selective protection efforts.

In order to do this, I must ask you to help even beyond your membership dues. If you have not responded to the Chapter's annual appeal for an extra gift, I urge you to do so. Respond as best you can. Your extra help will quickly be put to work helping to save another acre of Maine's best and most important soil.

If you have not sent in a contribution or have misplaced my letter of a few weeks ago, please do write out a check now and place it in the envelope enclosed with this newsletter.

Then sit back and watch what we do with that gift over the next year. I think you will be pleased with the very concrete and tangible use to which we put your gift.



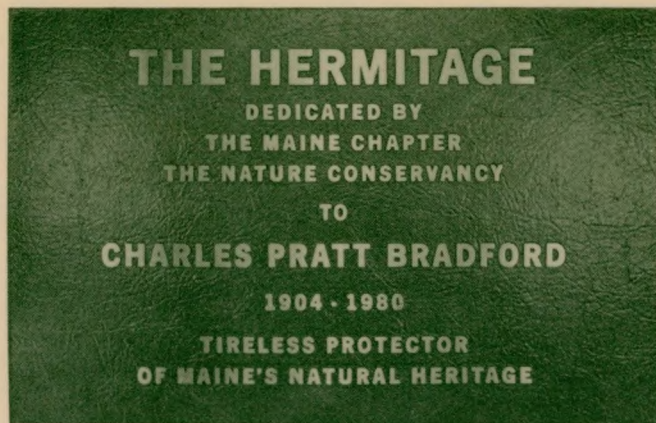
# PLAQUE HONORS Charles Bradford

3

After his death in 1980, the Trustees of the Maine Chapter dedicated The Hermitage to Charles P. Bradford, in recognition of the tremendous job he had done for the Chapter and the State in preserving Maine's natural heritage. In addition, they voted that all inland preserves would be part of the Charles P. Bradford Memorial Preserve System, a designation which parallels the Rachel Carson Seacoast, all of the preserves which touch salt water. Now, a bronze plaque has been made and will be placed at The Hermitage, when weather permits, permanently designating the site in his honor.

Having helped found the Maine Chapter in 1956, Charles Bradford, who was known as "Brad", remained active with the Board and served as Chapter Chairman from August, 1965 to August, 1968. Then, as he retired from a career with the Department of Parks and Recreation, (he was *its* first director) he turned from being a volunteer to become a staff member of The Nature Conservancy, so he could devote full time to saving significant natural lands. He became the first New England Field Director for the Conservancy. A few years later he turned his attentions entirely to Maine, and became the first Executive Director of the Maine Chapter. He continued working for the Maine Chapter until he retired a second time in 1979.

Over two-thirds of the Maine preserves came to TNC during Brad's involvement with the Chapter. However, one



J. Lannon photo

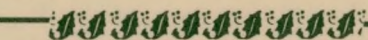
of his special areas was The Hermitage, a grove of over 100-year-old pines, adjacent to Gulf Hagas and the Katahdin Iron Works just west of Brownville Junction. His long dream had been to see that entire area protected for its natural and historic values. When he was with the Parks Department, he helped restore the historic Katahdin Iron Works and was involved in the registration of nearby Gulf Hagas on the register of National Natural Landmarks. With Conservancy, he helped acquire the stately pines known as The Hermitage.

Next summer the Chapter plans a dedication ceremony at The Hermitage. The plaque will be placed on a boulder which currently also bears the plaque designating The Hermitage as a National Natural Landmark. Details of the event will be forthcoming in a future newsletter.

## Islands of the Mid-Maine Coast: Blue Hill and Penobscot Bays by Charles B. McLane Kennebec River Press, 1982

A wonderful treasure trove of information awaits the reader of this new book on Maine's coastal islands. In it Dartmouth Professor Charles McLane delves into the past settlements on some 275 islands in Blue Hill and Penobscot Bays. Compiling information from libraries, censuses, island owners, "old timers" and many other sources, Dr. McLane has put together a fascinating and very readable account of the early history of these islands.

Apparently the book was a project



which began while cruising with a simple query, "I wonder who lived there?" It mushroomed into a detailed work of some 500 pages.

Dr. McLane does not claim to be definitive; rather he sees the research as a beginning, hoping it will bring new information to light. Yet, anyone who has shared his query will be the beneficiary of the great amount of information collected so far.

However, it should be noted that Dr. McLane is very sensitive to the privacy of current owners and stresses in the introduction that, for the most part, the islands are private property (not open to the public) and that one should seek permission before landing.

More than 100 photos, as well as current and old maps, augment the history of these islands. Of the 275 he discusses (which excludes the larger, previously well-documented islands such as North Haven and Vinalhaven), 123 were settled at one time or another. The remainder were used in some way by these settlers, such as for pastures.

Glancing through, it is interesting to note his comments about TNC's Bradbury Island in East Penobscot Bay. On a 1776 map it was identified as "Bear Island." Early records show that it was originally acquired by John Reed from Massachusetts in 1780, who shortly sold it to James Bowdoin. It was, however, not settled until the 1830's when an Englishman named John Vickery moved there. Records are sketchy, but it appears that the last family to live on the Island left in the 1880's, and it has not been inhabited since. Curiously, the origin of Bradbury's name still remains a mystery; McLane feels the only story concerning it to be without foundation.

Other preserves included are Wreck, Round, Placentia, White, Mark, Ship, Bar, and Trumpet Islands. It is a book well worth having if you have an interest in the region and the coast of Maine in general.



File photo

Bradbury Island in winter



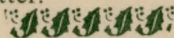


# STEWARDSHIP

## SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM *(continued from p. 1)*

Awards will be announced by March 18, 1983. Persons interested should write the Scientific Advisory Committee at the Maine Chapter office and request a brochure which explains the guidelines for application.

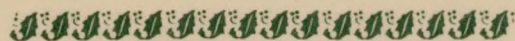
Most of the 1982 Small Grants Program Research Projects are now completed, and the results are being compiled. Summaries of these reports will appear in a later issue of the newsletter.



There will be a special meeting in late January, featuring the results of the 1982 research projects as well as other scientific research projects on TNC preserves. Anyone interested in attending this meeting, which will be held at Colby College, Waterville, should contact the office for details.



A new position is scheduled to be added to the Maine Chapter staff early in 1983. Although still subject to final budget approval, tentative plans call for the addition of an Assistant Director to help specifically in the areas of acquisitions, tradelands, fundraising, and public relations. A job description for this position can be obtained by writing the Chapter office. Resumes will be accepted until mid-January.



**The Board of Trustees and the Staff of the Maine Chapter wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

Send Aunt Ethel or Uncle Fred a gift membership in the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy! We'll send along a nice card informing them of your gift and a copy of the Preserve Listing. Then, even before the first copy of the national magazine, The Nature Conservancy News, or the Maine Newsletter arrives, they can be thinking about which preserve they want to visit first. Clip the coupon and tuck it inside the enclosed annual appeal envelope with your check. It's a good way to solve your gift list problems and protect land at the same time.

gift  
ideas



Season's Passes to Maine Department of Conservation Day-use Parks and Memorials will allow you to give your friends and relatives unlimited use with a 10% discount on camping (Baxter State Park and The Allagash Wilderness Waterway are not included) for only \$15.00.

Upon request, each Season's Pass

you purchase as a gift will be sent with a note telling the recipient you have given them a summer of fun. Order now. Make checks payable to the Treasurer, State of Maine. Mail to:

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